**ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY**

**DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE**

**BOOK: HORNBILL**

**LESSON 2**

**Hand out (Module -2 of2)**

***We*’*re Not Afraid to Die……... If We Can All Be Together***

***By Gordon Cook and Alan East***

The family had survived for more than fifteen hours and was desperately looking for rescue. The ship was in a bad condition and would not last to reach Australia. The nearest would be to reach Ile Amsterdam, a French Scientific base. However, their respite was short-lived when the dark clouds began to appear again. It was commendable that Jon opined that they were not afraid to die if all of them stuck together. It was an example of unity and oneness. It also spoke of the trust and belief that the children had in each other. The children, even in the face of death, had the patience to gift a 'thank-you' card to their parents. It was a symbol of trust and reassurance.

Jon was brave and said that they were not afraid to die if they could all be together. Sue’s head was swollen and she had a deep injury but she did not bother her parents about it. The narrator became more determined seeing his children’s courage. Finally, they reached Ile Amsterdam, a volcanic island where they were welcomed by 28 inhabitants. Thus, the collective strength and never failing optimism of the sailors made it possible for them to come out of the jaws of death. Though Jonathan and Suzanne did not do anything to save Wavewalker but their courage, forbearance, faith and optimism gave extra strength and persistence to the narrator and his team. The bravery of the strong-willed children is noteworthy in the story.

**Character sketch of the main characters**

**The narrator**

The narrator, Gordon cook was a 37-year-old businessman. He proved as a great captain and father during the challenging and trying times after the irreparable damage done to Wavewalker by keeping his composure and wits. Though he was almost fatally injured he had the spirit to fight back. It won’t be wrong to say that all lives on the boat could be saved just because of his seafaring skills.

**Mary**

Mary was the narrator’s wife. She was a courageous and brave woman. She stood by her husband after the wave badly damaged the boat. She had stayed at the wheel for all those crucial hours. She gave lots of emotional support to the narrator.

**Suzanne**

Suzanne was narrator’s seven year old daughter. She was very brave. She was critically injured at the time the huge wave struck the boat. Her eyes were terribly swollen because of the head injury. There was a cut on her arm also; however, she did not cry. She repeatedly told her father she was alright; the truth was she was not. She had to undergo six minor operations to remove the blood clotting from her brain. Even during the time of trial she kept her cool and made beautiful cards to motivate and inspire her gloomy parents.

**Jonathan**

Jonathan was Gordon Cook’s 6 year old son who had accompanied him on the round-the-world-journey. After the Wavewalker was terribly broken by the colossal wave, he also behaved very courageously. He gave a new strength to his father when he said he was not afraid to die if he could be together with the family. These words filled the author with new determination and courage. He resolved to fight till the end to save his family from being drowned in the stormy sea.

**Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler**

 Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler were two professional sailors whom the narrator had hired at Cape Town to tackle one of the world’s roughest seas, the southern Indian Ocean. They proved to be real saviours when the ship had been flooded with the sea water. They pumped like madmen to keep the water levels reasonably low.They had been cheerful and optimistic under the direst stress hence proved to be great crewmen.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*